

Narrative by Sawanga Aliau, a Jabêm schoolteacher and village leader in his late 50s, in early December 1976, in Siboma village, Morobe Province, PNG.

0.21.6 Nomba eta kunda na.  
 thing TH sago REL  
 The thing known as sago.

0.25.9 E bani tema, Niu Gini Papua ndi bani matana i-tamu ane,  
 3S food one New Guinea Papua GenPL food early 3S-join taro  
 It’s a kind of food, Papua New Guineans’ original food, along with taro,

0.32.0 go ta bani kakapi katalu i-ma i-tamu.  
 after TH food small some 3S-come 3S-join  
 after which some minor foods have come along.

0.37.3 Eta ti-kamba ti-nggo ka bani.  
 TH 3P-call 3P-say like food  
 These they call “food” [or “staples”].

0.40.7 Sese kundu alu ane, e bani matana.  
 but sago 3DU taro 3S food early  
 But sago and taro, they were the original foods.

0.49.1 Kundu,  
 sago  
 Sago,

0.51.2 ena lau wa kapole,  
 3SGen leaf and stalk  
 its leaf and stalk,

0.53.6 ena wambala tiyamama  
 3SGen cargo all  
 all its content

0.55.5 nomba sesemi,  
 thing one&same  
 is the same,

0.57.0 sese ena bolo luwa,  
 but 3SGen skin two  
 but its skin is of two types:

0.59.3 tema luli,  
 one thorn  
 one with thorns,

- 1.01.1 tema luli mou.  
 one thorn none  
 one without thorns.
- 1.03.5 To luli, ti-kamba ti-nggo  
 with thorn 3P-call 3P-say  
 With thorns, they call
- 1.05.6 kundu bala  
 sago bala  
*bala* sago,
- 1.07.0 tema, ti-nggo kundu iyawama  
 one 3P-say sago iyawama  
 one, they call *iyawama* sago,
- 1.09.7 tema, ti-nggo dawena,  
 one 3P-say dawena  
 one, they call *dawena*.
- 1.11.6 wa  
 and  
 and
- 1.13.0 kundu luli mou na,  
 sago thorn none of  
 And the sago without thorns,
- 1.14.6 ti-kamba te, ti-nggo ka kutawi,  
 3P-call one 3P-say like kutawi  
 they call one *kutawi*,
- 1.17.0 wa te ti-nggo ka buli.  
 and one 3P-say like buli  
 and one, they call *buli*.
- 1.20.3 Alu — Aluwandi wambala wa golonga  
 3DU — 3DUGen cargo and adornment  
 The content and foliage of the two
- 1.22.9 nomba sesemi,  
 thing one&same  
 is the same,
- 1.24.2 sese  
 but,  
 but

- 1.25.0 ai ti-ambi ase eta minamaina.  
3P 3P-take name TH various  
they take names that are various.
- 1.31.6 Kulakula kundu na.  
work sago of  
Sago work.
- 1.35.8 Tae-nembi inggo tana-lapa kundu te,  
belly-Futhold say 1IPFut-beat sago one  
If we're thinking of beating a sago palm,
- 1.38.0 Orait takalama,  
All.right now  
All right now,
- 1.39.4 aita  
1IP  
We
- 1.40.7 tana-nggewe yawanzi, nuta, wanginda,  
1IPFut-carry sheath, webbing, pounder,  
today we'll bring the sheathes, the webbing, the pounders;
- 1.45.0 nomba tatena, tana-ki woyama ni-ye.  
thing this, 1IPFut-put ready Fut3S-lie  
these things, we'll place ready.
- 1.47.7 Gaya,  
morrow  
The next day,
- 1.48.7 go ta ta-tala kundu tomu.  
after TH 1IP-chop sago severed  
then we chop the sago down.
- 1.51.4 Inggo ta-tala kundu tomu na,  
SAY 1IP-chop sago broken REL  
When we chop the sago down,
- 1.53.6 a kole luwa mo toli ina-wosa ina-tala tomu.  
maybe man two or three 3PFut-go 3PFut-chop severed  
maybe two or three men will go chop it down.
- 1.57.2 Tako ta lawa katalu ina-wasa ina-tamu  
okay TH people some 3PFut-go 3PFut-join  
Okay then, some [other] people will go join them,

- 1.59.9 wa tako,  
and okay  
and okay,
- 2.00.8 ina-so       gilu,  
3PFut-stab protrusions  
they'll strike off the protrusions,
- 2.02.7 wa lawa teulu,       ina-ambi siyala  
and people part       3PFut-hold pole  
and one group will take poles,
- 2.05.4 ina-ma       ina-so       gilu       inggo beleya,  
3PFut-come 3PFut-stab protrusions SAY no.more  
they'll come strike off the protrusions until they're done,
- 2.08.0 tako,  
okay  
okay,
- 2.09.4 ina-so       wosa.  
3PFut-stab broken  
they'll pry it open.
- 2.11.2 Ina-ambi       yawa  
3PFut-hold       husk  
They'll take the husk
- 2.12.5 wa ina-so       wosa.  
and 3PFut-stab       broken  
and pry it open.
- 2.14.0 Ina-so       wosa       ni-wesa       beleya,  
3PFut-stab broken Fut3S-go       no.more  
They'll pry it open until it's finished,
- 2.16.0 tako,  
okay  
okay,
- 2.17.6 ina- — ina-ki lawa  
3PFut 3PFut-set       people  
they'll — they'll set people
- 2.19.8 lomosanga na  
rinsing of  
for rinsing

- 2.21.2 wa lawa ina-lapa na.  
and people 3PFut-beat of  
and people to pound.
- 2.23.8 Lawa lomosanga na ata ina-nggewe aindi  
people rinsing of later 3PFut-carry 3pGen  
The people for rinsing will then carry their
- 2.26.5 kundu kapole wa nomba gabagaba  
sago stalk and thing various  
sago stalks and things
- 2.29.4 ina-wasa ina-ki su tina.  
3PFut-go 3PFut-put to river  
[and] go put them by the river.
- 2.31.6 Wa ..  
and  
And ..
- 2.32.8 lawa wanginda na,  
people pounders of  
the pounder people,
- 2.34.2 ewesika teulu, tamota teulu,  
women part men part  
part women, part men,
- 2.36.8 ata ina-lapa.  
later 3PFut-beat  
later they'll pound.
- <<DOGS BARKING>>
- 2.38.5 Wa ewesika teulu  
and women part  
And some of the women,
- 2.40.1 ni-u —  
Fut3S-become  
will be for —
- 2.40.5 ina-ambi kundu ulasa ni-wesa su tina.  
3PFut-take sago pulp Fut3S-go to river  
they'll take the sago pulp over to the river.
- 2.43.9 Go ta, lawa lomosanga na, ina-lomosa  
after TH people rinsing of 3PFut-rinse  
Whereupon, the rinsing people, they'll rinse it.

2.47.7 Wanginda —  
 pounder  
 The pounder —

2.48.9 Wanginda na lawa,  
 pounder GenSG people  
 The pounder people,

2.50.2 wa  
 and  
 and

2.51.2 ina-yatingi kundu ni-wesa tina na ena lawa,  
 3PFut-transport sago Fut3S-go river of 3SGen people  
 who'll transport the sago to the river, those people,

2.54.0 ai ina-pai beleya,  
 3P 3PFut-do no.more  
 they'll finish,

2.55.3 tako,  
 okay  
 okay,

2.56.1 ina-wasa su teteu,  
 3PFut-go to village  
 they'll go to the village

2.57.2 ina-walanga ata.  
 3PFut-release self  
 and relax.

2.59.0 Wa ai lawa lomosanga na,  
 and 3P people rinsing of  
 And, those rinsing people,

3.01.1 ai ina-pai kulakula ka ina-mi.  
 3P 3PFut-do work like 3PFut-dwell  
 they'll keep right on working.

3.03.4 Ina-lomosa ka ina-mi inggo ina-yanggo  
 3PFut-rinse like 3PFut-dwell SAY 3PFut-see  
 They keep on rinsing until they see

3.05.9 kundu na ulasa i-tabinga inggo beleya,  
 sago GenSG pulp 3S-close SAY no.more  
 the sago pulp is almost finished,

- 3.08.8 orait,  
okay  
okay,
- 3.09.5 ina-nggo —  
3PFut-say  
they'll say —
- 3.10.8 ina-nggo binga           denga  
3PFut-say word           to  
they'll send word to
- 3.12.8 lawa katalu   [ manu ti-walanga ata na ],  
people some   WH   3P-release self REL  
some of the people who are resting,
- 3.14.8 ina-nggo,  
3PFut-say  
they'll say,
- 3.15.2 tako, muna-ambi       damu wa walasa.  
okay 2PFut-take       torchfronds and rope  
“Okay, bring torch fronds and rope.”
- 3.19.0 Tako, ai ina-wasa ina-ambi damu wa walasa       ina-ma       ina-kalati woyama,  
okay, 3P 3PFut-go 3PFut-hold torchfrond and rope 3PFut-come 3PFut-fix ready  
Okay, they'll go fetch torch fronds and rope and come get them ready,
- 3.23.4 wa ai lawa [ eta ti-lomosa ]   ina-nggo beleya,  
and 3P people TH 3P-rinse   3PFut-say no.more  
and those people who are rinsing, they'll announce they're finished,
- 3.26.4 tako,  
okay  
okay,
- 3.28.8 ina-ambi       gogowa wai,  
3PFut-take       chutes FIN  
they'll take the washing chutes away,
- 3.31.3 wa, tako, ina-lapa       tina tomu,  
and okay 3PFut-beat   water severed  
and, okay, they'll draw off the water
- 3.33.7 wa ina-so       kundu na ano.  
and 3PFut-stab   sago GenSG essence  
and hit the sago starch.

- 3.35.7 Ina-yawali nuta,  
3PFut-spread webbing  
They’ll spread out the coconut webbing,
- 3.37.3 wa, tako, ina-ki kundu na .. ano suwa.  
and okay 3PFut-put sago GenSG .. essence on  
and, okay, they’ll put the sago starch .. starch onto it.
- 3.41.4 Lawa [ manu ti-ambi damu wai ti-ma i-ye woyama ],  
people [ WH 3P-hold frond FIN 3P-come 3S-lie ready ]  
The people who have brought the torch fronds ready,
- 3.44.5 ata ina-nggo binga de ata ina-nggo ka  
later 3PFut-say word to self 3PFut-say like  
they’ll then say to each other, they’ll say,
- 3.46.7 ina-kalati sa [ inggo ina-lalangi kundu na ].  
3PFut-fix place SAY 3PFut-scorch sago REL  
“Let them fix the place for scorching the sago.”
- 3.49.7 Tako,  
okay  
Okay,
- 3.51.1 ina — ina-kalati sa beleya,  
3PFut 3PFut-fix place no.more  
they’ll — they’ll finish fixing the place,
- 3.53.4 wa lawa ina-usingi kundu.  
and people 3PFut-shape sago  
and [other] people will shape the sago.
- 3.55.5 Ina-usingi kundu su gogowa.  
3PFut-shape sago in chute  
They’ll shape the sago in the [rinsing] chutes.
- 3.57.8 Ina-usingi ni-wesa beleya, tako,  
3PFut-shape sago Fut3S-go no.more okay  
They’ll finish shaping the sago, okay,
- 4.00.0 ina- —  
3PFut-  
they’ll —
- 4.00.4 ina-poni yawi.  
3PFut-kindle fire  
they’ll build a fire.



- 4.01.9 Kole ni-ambi damu dudu na mainama.  
man Fut3S-hold frond tip the separate.  
A man will hold the torch frond tips separately.
- 4.04.8 E ata ni-tutuni damu dudu wai, tako,  
3S later Fut3S-ignite frond tip FIN okay  
He'll later ignite the frond tips, okay,
- 4.07.7 e ni-ambi tamu ni-ndo wa ni-badami inggo  
3S Fut3S-hold together Fut3S-stay and Fut3S-wait SAY  
he'll stay holding them together and wait until
- 4.10.2 ina-yatingi kundu .. ano ina-ambi ina-ki su  
3PFut-transport sago essence 3PFut-hold 3PFut-put on  
they move the sago .. starch and put it on
- 4.13.3 sa [ manu ti-kalati wai woyama ].  
place WH 3P-fix FIN ready  
the place they've prepared.
- 4.15.6 Eana, ina-ki ni-wesa inggo beleya, tako,  
this 3PFut-put Fut3S-go SAY no.more okay  
This, they'll keep piling there until it's done, okay,
- 4.17.9 kole yawi na i-tutuni yawi.  
man fire of 3S-ignite fire  
the fire man lights the fire.
- 4.20.3 Tako, ina-ki damu ni- ni-nzeka kundu,  
okay 3PFut-put frond 3S-[go] Fut3S-lie.on sago  
Okay, they'll place the fronds on top of the sago,
- 4.22.9 wa e ni-ki yawi ni-solonga.  
and 3S Fut3S-put fire Fut3S-enter  
and he'll put the fire into it.
- 4.25.5 Yaweni.  
fire.eat  
It burns.
- 4.27.3 Yaweni ni-mi inggo beleya, tako,  
fire.eat Fut3S-dwell SAY no.more okay  
It keeps burning until it's done, okay,
- 4.30.2 ina-ambi kundu dudu lau te ina-ma,  
3PFut-hold sago tip leaf one 3PFut-come  
they'll bring a [type of] sago leaf tip,

4.33.1 wa ta kundu lau na, ti-kamba ti-nggo ka .. sunimbani.  
and TH sago leaf the 3P-call 3P-say like sunimbani  
and that sago leaf, they call .. *sunimbani*.

4.38.2 Ina-ambi ina-ma  
3PFut-hold 3PFut-come  
They’ll bring it

4.39.4 wa ina-wou yawi gaula [ manu yaweni na ].  
and 3PFut-whisk fire ash WH fire-eat REL  
and they’ll whisk away the ash that’s burnt.

4.43.2 Ai ina-wou ina-mi,  
3P 3PFut-whisk 3PFut-dwell  
They’ll keep whisking it,

4.44.9 tako, wiya anoma.  
okay, good truly  
okay, very good.

4.46.7 Go ta, tako ina-usa.  
after TH okay 3PFut-slice  
Whereupon, okay, they’ll slice it.

4.48.8 Ina-usa kundu,  
3PFut-slice sago  
They’ll slice the sago,

4.50.2 ena [ manu yaweni ], ina-usa,  
3SGEN WH fire-eat 3PFut-slice  
its burnt part, they’ll slice

4.52.5 wa ina-kowa ena baloga.  
and 3PFut-peel 3SGen crust  
and they’ll peel off its crust.

4.54.8 Ina-kowa ena baloga,  
3PFut-peel 3SGen crust  
They’ll peel off its crust,

4.56.6 tako, ina-ambi ina-wasa ina-ki ni-ye mainama.  
okay 3PFut-hold 3PFut-go 3PFut-put Fut3S-lie separate  
okay, they’ll take it and place it separately.

4.59.4 Wa kundu ketu, kundu ano,  
and sago egg sago essence  
And the inside of the sago, the sago starch,

- 5.02.2 eana ina-ambi kundu lau ina-ma, to walasa ma ina-ma,  
 this 3PFut-hold sago leaf 3PFut-come with rope ADV 3PFut-come  
 this, they’ll bring sago leaves and come, along with rope,
- 5.06.3 Tako, ina-so nusa.  
 okay 3PFut-stab envelope  
 Okay, they’ll tie a leaf envelope.
- 5.08.8 Ina-so nusa ka ina-yomba.  
 3PFut-stab envelope like 3PFut-wrap  
 They’ll tie a leaf envelope, like wrapping it.
- 5.11.3 Ina-yomba, tako, ina-so nusa beleya,  
 3PFut-wrap okay 3PFut-stab envelope no.more  
 They’ll wrap it, okay, they’ll finish tying the envelopes,
- 5.13.9 tako.  
 okay  
 okay.
- 5.14.9 Ina-zubusa kundu bamo na ni-pi sesemi ni-ye,  
 3PFut-pile.up sago much the Fut3S-upon one Fut3S-lie  
 They’ll pile most of the sago up in one place
- 5.18.1 wa ena baloga ina-bada de lawa kulakula na,  
 and 3SGen mantle 3PFut-distribute to people work of  
 and its mantle, they’ll distribute to the workers
- 5.21.1 [ manu ti-lomosa na mo  
 WH 3P-rinse REL or  
 who rinsed, or
- 5.23.1 ti-lapa wanginda na mo  
 3P-beat pounder REL or  
 wielded the pounders, or
- 5.24.9 ti-yatingi i-wesa su tina na ],  
 3P-transport 3S-go to river REL  
 transported it to the river,
- 5.27.3 ena baloga ina-bada de ai.  
 3SGen mantle 3PFut-distribute to 3P  
 its mantle, they’ll distribute to them.
- 5.29.8 Wa kundu ano,  
 and sago essence  
 And the sago starch,

- 5.31.2 ai        ina-nggewe    ni-wesa su kapala    go ta,  
               3P        3PFut-carry    Fut3S-go to house    after TH  
               they'll carry to the house and then,
- 5.33.5 tako,  
               okay  
               okay,
- 5.34.3 ina-bada        de lawa [ manu ti-pai kulakula ].  
               3PFut-distribute        to people WH 3P-do work  
               they'll distribute it to the people who did the work,
- 5.36.9 Ewesika, .. tamota,    lawa [ manu    ti-lapa wanginda na ],  
               women men    people WH    3P-beat pounder REL  
               Women, .. men, people who wielded the pounders,
- 5.41.6 ina-bada        de ai    ni-wesa beleya.  
               3PFut-distribute    to 3P    Fut3S-go no.more  
               They'll finish distributing it to them.
- 5.43.6 Wa kundu nata,        aindi    ni-ye    inggo    ina-ani.  
               and sago owner        3PGen Fut3S-lie        SAY    3PFut-eat  
               And the palm owners, theirs will lie [ready] for them to eat.
- 5.47.7 Te,        kulakula kundu.  
               TOP    work sago  
               And that's sago work.